

in 49 States. Nineteen States have already passed voting restrictions in 2021, with even more coming this year.

These are acts of voter suppression occurring in nearly every State of the Union, targeting Black and Brown communities, working-class and poor communities, telling them that their votes and voices shouldn't be heard, violating the sacred concept of one person, one vote.

Make no mistake, Madam Speaker: The restrictive voting laws that have passed and continue to be passed and pushed have directly targeted Black and Brown poor and working-class communities, directly targeting communities of color to make it harder for them to access the ballot box and to participate in our democracy.

As we continue to honor Dr. King and his legacy today, the Senate has a choice: Abolish the filibuster or let democracy die.

Madam Speaker, the filibuster is an arcane piece of Senate procedure that came to be by accident. It is a direct legacy to segregation and continues to hold back progress on civil rights to this very day.

Its most famous use was against the Civil Rights Act of 1964, where its opponents filibustered for nearly 60 days. But it wasn't the first time, and it won't be the last.

White southerners also invoked the filibuster to block a voting rights bill in 1891, with many of the same Senators filibustering again in the 1930s to block antilynching laws.

Imagine that. The filibuster was used to block antilynching laws.

We have a choice, Madam Speaker, between having a democracy or allowing racist systems to continue. It is simple. The filibuster is a monument to white supremacy, and we have to tear it down.

I refuse to hear any cheap excuse about why protecting the very founding principle of this Nation isn't possible because of it, not when it has been changed 161 times.

The filibuster, in the last five decades, has been changed 161 times to pass trade deals, tax cuts for the rich, Supreme Court Justices, and just recently for the debt ceiling.

But that is not what we remember the filibuster for. We remember the filibuster for its racist roots, deeply embedded in Jim Crow, used to stop antilynching legislation.

Madam Speaker, history will not look fondly on those who stand in the way of progress.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF ELLEN WELCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Ellen Welch, a crime scene specialist in Morgan County and founder of the Hero Tree.

Ellen has exhibited an unwavering commitment to Morgan County's law enforcement as she works as a crime scene specialist and investigator.

Each year, during the holiday season, Ellen takes on the role of lifting up the community's fallen law enforcement officers and K9s. 2021 has marked the third year that Ellen has spearheaded this service to the community, and it continues to grow.

Every year, Ellen, her mom, and her niece paint each ornament and write the name, death date, and agency of each fallen officer. Then they place the ornaments on a tree that stands in the Morgan County squad room until January.

Unfortunately, this year was especially hard on law enforcement. Ellen had to get a much larger tree as violence against police officers spiked.

Ellen has exhibited a selfless commitment to our police officers, and for that, we are very grateful. I thank Ellen for what she does and encourage her to keep it up.

#### RECOGNIZING AVA DORMINEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary student in my district, Ava Dorminey, for her work building the Students Helping Students Succeed mentorship program.

Now a senior at Savannah Arts Academy, Ava founded the SHSS mentorship program in her junior year to help struggling students.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related school closures, which proved difficult for many students, are what prompted Ava to take action. Her desire to help students' mental health and academic success culminated in the creation of the Students Helping Students Succeed mentorship program. Ava wanted to assist her fellow students while also working to instill essential qualities like confidence, teamwork, and leadership in our youth.

Her work has been instrumental in helping students through these trying times. I am extremely proud to represent a district where young people's work, like Ava's, is on display for the whole Nation to see.

She inspires me and gives me even more confidence in our future, and I want to thank her for the work she is doing in our community.

I hope Ava's story and work inspire other young people to find an avenue that can help their communities be successful as well.

#### CONGRATULATING RINCON, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rincon, Georgia, for being recognized as one of 24/7 Wall Street's best cities to live in, in the South.

Rincon is a gem of a town in the First District that is well deserving of this recognition. Its population growth, high median household income, and low unemployment rate are just some of the features that caught the attention of 24/7 Wall Street, an independent news organization that

ranks cities based on affordability, quality of life, economy, and community.

Incorporated as a city in 1927, Rincon has a rich history as a rail town in the 1800s. When World War II came to America, Rincon, like the rest of the First District, answered the call to arms. Due to its proximity to Savannah, Rincon citizens were instrumental in the construction of U.S. Liberty ships.

Since then, the city has continued to grow and flourish into what it is today. I know the citizens of Rincon, Georgia, and myself are proud of this recognition.

As someone whose grandparents lived in Rincon, I was in Rincon most Sundays every week as a young man. I can tell you how proud I am of the city of Rincon and Effingham County and the tremendous growth they have seen while still maintaining a great quality of life.

#### ENDING FILIBUSTER TO PASS VOTING RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to stand here this morning with a very solemn heart, overwhelmed, one would say, with a sense of grief. And in that grief, there is joy.

The grief, of course, is to feel the personal pain of the lack of unity around the very core of democracy, and that is the right to vote.

As has been evidenced by Members over and over again, as I listened to Senators last night, everyone acceded to the point that voting is the core of democracy. It means that the individual in pain, in frustration, in affirmation, in the understanding of policies, gets to select a person of their choosing. It is not about those who are elected or candidates or the elections. It is about the voters having that right.

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Right now, today, in the hands of the other body is the crux of democracy. I am, frankly, undone by the usage of an insignificant procedural rule that has been used over the decades and centuries to crush democracy.

The filibuster is insignificant. It is an order. It is not a statute; it is not the Constitution; it is not the 15th Amendment or the 14th Amendment; it is not the 13th Amendment, which freed slaves. It is also the recognition that voting rights is for all persons irrespective of their race, color, creed, or religion, and their party affiliation.

Why is the other body, under the leadership of Minority Leader McCONNELL, not coming to the table of unity? I extend an olive branch.

The filibuster has been changed already over 161 times. Do we recognize that between 1866 and 1890 many landmark pieces of civil rights legislation